Five things you need to know today

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Demonstrations – Weekend road closures – Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham – Today at the Museum – Tomorrow at the House @42

Two demonstrations that took place within the Capital yesterday passed off peacefully and without incident according to the police.

Around 60 members of the Scottish Defence League gathered outside the Scottish Parliament and held a static protest for approximately 45 minutes.

At the same time, 250 members of the Unite Against Fascism group took part in a march from High Street, down St Mary's Street and along Holyrood Road before holding their own demonstration at the south side of Parliament.

A policing operation was launched to facilitate these events and an appropriate police response was deployed to allow both groups the opportunity to demonstrate while maintaining order and ensuring public safety.

No arrests were made during either demonstration and disruption to the public was kept to a minimum.

Chief Superintendent Malcolm Graham said:- "Lothian and Borders Police are well-versed in hosting demonstrations such as these and considerable planning was undertaken along with our various partner agencies to ensure today passed without any problems.

"We will continue to provide a high-visibility presence throughout the city centre today to offer reassurance to the public and deter criminal activity. "I would like to thank the public for their assistance and cooperation during this operation."

Meawhile <u>Edinburgh Eye</u> has photos of what was a demonstration of very few people...

Broughton Street between Albany Street and London Street is closed this weekend. More details on the diversions <u>here on</u> <u>the Broughton Spurtle</u>.

Tonight at The Queen's Hall Scotland's best known fiddler and accordionist duo, Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, take to the stage. <u>Tickets and more information here</u>.

Today at 1 o'clock there is a free themed tour round the museum in Chambers Street. Today's theme is Mary Queen of Scots. Even if you think you know everything there is to say about her, the museum staff are sure to be able to offer you even more of an insight. No booking required <u>but details here.</u>

No concert tonight at the <u>House @42</u> but there is something to take you out on a Monday evening. Here is what Douglas says about Picture the Ocean who are headlining tomorrow evening:-

It's not often I look at a band's website and discover that actually they're a bit, er, poppy, but that's <u>Picture the</u> <u>Ocean</u>. All the way from Canada, the band is made up of Jesse D (guitar, vocals), Jacquie B (vocals) and Matt Blackie (drums, vocals). They've got some well-meaning gobbledegook on their website about the band being "everything you want it to be and everything you never knew it could be", but the phrase that truly pays is, "Picture the Ocean is refreshing alt-pop delivered by a powerhouse trio that sounds twice its size." Well I've watched their clip now and say they're like The Bevvy Sisters with just one lassie, or maybe an alternative version of The Good Lovelies with guys and drums. Either way, I'd say they are definitely worth a punt on a Monday night.

Tickets are £10 with every penny going direct to the artists. To book PLEASE EMAIL <u>info@douglasinscotland.co.uk</u>